

COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Council of the Isles of Scilly

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending 31st December 1947.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area .. .. .	4041 acres
Population .. .. .	1700 (approx.)
Number of families .. .. .	500 (approx.)
Rateable Value .. .. .	£5,600
Sum represented by ld. rate .. .. .	£20

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Legitimate .. .. .	18	20	38	22.35 birth rate
Illegitimate .. .. .	nil	nil	nil	—
Still Births				
Legitimate .. .. .	} nil	} nil	} nil	—
Illegitimate .. .. .	} nil	} nil	} nil	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age .. .. .	nil	nil	nil	—
Deaths	9	11	20	11.8 Death Rate

This year there has been a substantial increase in the birthrate. In 1946 it was 18.75 as compared to 22.35 for 1947. The death rate from all causes was less in 1946 - it was 10.25 as compared with 11.8 for this year. The natural increase of live births over deaths is 18 for 1947 as compared to 10 for 1946.

The Chief Causes of Death at all Ages

Diseases of the Heart and blood vessels .. .. .	11
Cancer .. .. .	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) .. .. .	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	1
Disease of the Nervous System .. .. .	2
Skin Disease .. .. .	1
Senility .. .. .	1
Suicide .. .. .	1



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

### Tuberculosis

There was one new case of tuberculosis notified this year, this being a spinal type. This makes a total of four cases on the Islands, three of which are pulmonary in type.

### Pneumonia

There were three cases of lobar pneumonia during the year, one of which was fatal.

### Measles

There was an outbreak of mild measles confined mostly to the Island of Tresco, altogether there were 18 cases. There were no deaths. There were a few cases on St. Martin's, St. Mary's, and 1 on St. Agnes.

### Whooping Cough

There were no cases.

### Scarlet Fever

There were no cases.

### Diphtheria

There were no cases.

### Diarrhoea under one year

There was one case.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

One of the main lines of attack on maternal mortality is the provision of a good antenatal service. I am pleased to state that expectant mothers on the Islands realise the importance of this, and attend at regular intervals for antenatal examination. However I am not satisfied with the number of mothers who will breast feed their babies. More health education on this subject would do a lot of good.

### 1. Gas and Air Analgesia

One apparatus for use in midwifery is now owned by the Hospital. The Hospital Authorities have kindly offered this apparatus for use in the district when ever this might be necessary. I find that this apparatus is a great comfort to mothers having their first babies.

### 2. Obstetric Bed

A new obstetric bed has been provided at the Hospital and this has been a great help both to the nursing staff and myself. I find that instrumental deliveries can be carried out with comparative ease on this bed.

### 3. Baby Scale

A new and accurate baby scale has also been provided at the Hospital and again this has been of the greatest help. Test weighing of the babies can now be carried out with ease and accuracy. I wish to thank the Hospital Authorities for providing these three items of equipment.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

There is no ambulance service on St. Mary's. On the off-islands stretchers are used to carry the patients to the launches. A few complaints have been received about the lack of ambulance facilities on St. Mary's. Under Part III Section 27 of the National Health Service Act of 1946 it will be the duty of the Local Authority to provide an ambulance service. I would like to make a few suggestions for your consideration. For the off-islands I suggest that two of the ordinary type of stretcher be provided for each Island and one stretcher carrier on wheels. For St. Mary's I would suggest that the towing vehicle of





the Fire Service be used. With a little improvisation I feel sure that this could be made into quite a satisfactory ambulance.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This is carried out free of cost to the parents of children who wish to have them immunised. During the year 29 cases were immunised, of these only seven were between the ages 8 months to 1 year. The Ministry of Health recommend that every child should be immunised before he reaches the age of one year, and should be done, if possible, after he is 8 months old. I think it is a great pity that parents do not take advantage of this service.

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX

Again the service is provided free of cost to parents, and yet only 14 cases were vaccinated during 1947, and of these only six were under 1 year of age.

#### GENERAL SURGICAL AND MEDICAL CASES

General Surgical and Medical Cases are treated at West Cornwall Infirmary, Penzance; the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, and St. Mary's Hospital, Isles of Scilly. Much more could be done at the local hospital here, if we could get more nursing and domestic staff.

#### CANCER

Cases are either sent directly to the Radio-therapy Dept., Redruth, under Dr. Hair, D.M.R.E., or are referred there after operation. Treatment with radium and deep X-ray is given. A very close follow up is carried out on each case receiving treatment.

#### SANITARY

Water Supply The quality and quantity is quite satisfactory. Specimens are now being sent every three months to Dr. H.E.Cox, Public Analyst, 11 Billiter Square, London, E.C.3., for examination.

Bake Houses These are satisfactory, but there is not enough of room for the cooling of the bread after it has been baked.

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I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

J. KELLY

#### Copies to:-

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|--|--|
| 5 Ministry of Health                     | 1 Central Midwives Board,              |
| 1 Local Government Boundary Commission,  | 73 Great Peter St., Westminster, S.W.1 |
| Devonshire House, Mayfair, W.1.          | 1 Dr. Curnow, M.B., D.P.H., M.O.H.,    |
| 1 Ministry of Town and Country Planning, | County Hall, Truro                     |
| 32 St. James's Square, S.W.1.            | 1 Dr. J. Kelly, M.B., B.Ch., M.O.H.,   |
| 1 Director of Statistics, Ministry of    | St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly            |
| Labour, Orphanage Road, Watford.         | 2 File copies                          |

